

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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## Situation Report

### Severe Storms

July 26, 2006 Morning Summary

**UPDATED INFORMATION IS IN BOLD**

#### SUMMARY

A Federal disaster declaration was received on July 21, 2006, (FEMA-3267-EM), for City of St. Louis, and the counties of St. Louis, Dent, Iron, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Washington. FEMA is authorized to provide debris removal and emergency protective measures, (Categories A and B), including direct Federal assistance under the Public Assistance program, at 75 percent Federal funding. Additional designations may be made at a later date after further evaluation.

An Ameren employee was killed yesterday morning, and an out-of-area contractor was injured in separate incidents in St. Louis County. Officials say the Ameren employee was killed when he stepped on an energized line that was partially hidden by brush. The contractor was seriously injured when he came in contact with a live wire while on top of a pole.

Ameren officials report that as of 6 am, about **82,000 customers in Missouri are without power, with 70,000 in St. Louis County, 11,300 in St. Louis City, 700 in Washington County**, and the remainder scattered throughout the affected area. 4000 personnel are involved in restoration efforts. Ameren officials continue to work directly with city, county, state and federal authorities to coordinate other priority restoration areas as needed.

The Dept. of Social Services is clarifying information regarding replacement of food for households who are currently on the food stamp program. Citizens that are currently receiving food stamps, who lost food purchased with the food stamps are eligible for a replacement equal to the amount that they lost. If clients live in a zip code that had power outage and lost food, they may call or come to their local office and complete a one-page form to have their food stamp benefits replaced. Once the form is completed, benefits will be replaced and available on the person's electronic benefit card as soon as possible. Contrary to some incorrect reports, the food stamp program does NOT issue "vouchers" for food; instead it replaces the loss.

SEMA conducted Public Assistance Applicant Briefings (for Governmental entities) yesterday for St. Louis City **with 50 in attendance** and St. Louis County with **140 in attendance**. Additional briefings will be scheduled for other affected areas in the coming days. Needs for Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments with federal and state representatives are being reviewed, and scheduled as necessary.

**Joint FEMA-SEMA Preliminary Damage Assessments for Public Assistance (PA) are scheduled to begin today. Public Assistance programs are aid to state and local governments, and qualifying private, non-profit agencies to offset emergency related costs. Preliminary Damage Assessments for Individual Assistance is scheduled to begin tomorrow. This is one of the steps to make disaster aid available under Individual Assistance programs (assistance for individuals, homes, and businesses).**

**Fatalities**

Location	Fatalities	Notes
Jefferson County	1	Heat- related; reported by DHSS
St Louis County	4	1 Ameren worker electrocuted; 1 construction worker killed by wind-driven debris, 2 heat-related deaths
St Louis City	1	Heat- related; reported by DHSS
STATE TOTAL	6	

**City of St. Louis**

**Only one shelter was open in the overnight**, with decreasing populations, although officials are maintaining capabilities to open up facilities should the need arise as it gets warmer throughout the week. 16 cooling centers are in operation yesterday, although the usage of those facilities was low on Monday. There is also increasing concern about reported illnesses that could be linked to eating spoiled food. Health officials are closely monitoring the situation. Food and water are being distributed at several locations. City crews have removed an estimated 70,000 tons of debris through Monday. City workers are conducting door-to-door health checks to locate people who may need assistance.

**St. Louis County**

County reports traffic signals at 18 intersections (10 county-maintained, 8 MoDOT) are not working because of power outage. The county has discontinued its shelter operations, although officials are maintaining capabilities to open up facilities should the need arise as it gets warmer throughout the week. 22 cooling stations are operational. The county is reporting a number of structure fires (6-7) that started as a result of power being restored on various buildings. Food and water are being distributed at several locations. **Salvation Army has set up a mobile kitchen capable of feeding some 35,000 meals per day – this feeding center was expected to come on line late yesterday. Some ice shipments to St. Louis County were re-directed to Washington County.**

**Washington County**

The shelter that has been operating was closed yesterday. 6 cooling centers remain operational around the county. The county has requested another damage assessment, as they are getting additional data on damaged homes throughout the area. City of Potosi has its water supply back on line, but many residents in the county remain without water. **Potosi Police Department are currently conducting health and welfare checks throughout the City as the hot weather returns.** 20 Soldiers from the Missouri National Guard are assisting with water distribution operations. Americorp officials have arrived to do an initial assessment on potential projects. State officials revised a damage assessment on Friday. 3 homes were confirmed destroyed, while 24 had major damage, and 76 had minor damage. In addition a Patrol Car and a County Truck were destroyed.

**Other Counties**

SEMA Area Coordinators have been in contact with local officials from several counties that were impacted by the disaster. Local damage assessments are on-going in Jefferson County. Minor damage has been reported in Dent and Iron Counties. St Charles County reports roughly 2000 people still without power, however, the City of St Charles suspended its emergency declaration over the weekend.

**State Actions**

Governor Blunt issued Executive Order 06-28 authorizing the Director of the Missouri Dept of Transportation (MoDOT) to temporarily suspend selected motor carrier and commercial vehicle requirements for disaster response activities as allowed by law. The Governor also issued a public service announcement warning citizens on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning due to running generators without proper ventilation.

**State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)** continues to operate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at a limited Level-2 activation. Hours of operation have been reduced to 7am-7pm daily, with an operator on duty until 10pm. SEMA also has liaisons working from the St Louis City and Washington County Emergency Operations Centers. **SEMA Logistics Team has a request for 20,000 MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat) for St. Louis County (these were ordered yesterday).**

**Missouri National Guard (MONG)** has over **400 personnel** on duty performing various missions as of **0500 26July 2006**. 10 teams are doing health and welfare checks with local fire departments. Five additional teams are performing

debris removal activities. One additional team is conducting a transport mission within the area. 20 people are assisting with water delivery in Washington County. **Washington County has requested that the National Guard troops be extended to Friday, 28 July 2006.**

**Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP)** has provided troopers to assist with traffic control since the storms. The patrol has also worked with other agencies to assist with delivery of Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to distribution centers.

**Office of Administration (OA)** has been in contact with vendors for additional MREs that can be purchased and delivered to the affected area. OA has also been coordinating delivery of food, water, ice, and generators since the storm moved through the area last week.

**Department of Economic Development (DED)** is making initial contact with officials in Washington County to review eligibility for long-term recovery programs.

**Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)** is working on a public information effort regarding food safety. DHSS reports that more than 100 nurses and nursing assistants have responded to the public service announcement aired over the weekend. DHSS is also coordinating with Ameren on getting power restored to nine elderly care facilities that were identified on Monday. DHSS are contacting health agencies in Dent, Iron, Jefferson, and Washington Counties to further assess needs for medical professionals

**Missouri Department of Insurance (MDI)** is providing a consumer information hotline for people to call with questions on their insurance policies. The number is 800-726-7390 and is staffed from 8am-5pm on weekdays.

**Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)** is reviewing a request from St Louis County to provide debris removal assistance in the affected area. Otherwise, state highways in the metro area are near normal. MoDOT has also been reviewing requests for overdimension shipments (i.e. overweight/oversize) on an expedited basis.

**Department of Mental Health (DMH)** has a toll-free number (1-800-364-9687) for shelters and agencies to provide to anyone who may need assistance.

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** has received notice that water samples provided by the City of Potosi have tested negative for bacteria. DNR has issued a debris waste waiver for yard waste. DNR and Dept of Social Services are working with private businesses to supply bottled drinking water to distribution sites in St. Louis City/County and Potosi Missouri. DNR has also been shipping MREs from Jefferson City to the affected areas.

**Department of Social Services (DSS)** replaced food stamps for over 3,000 households on Monday, and officials expect to replace a similar amount today. Extended hours are being maintained at offices throughout the area. **DSS** has also coordinated deliveries of water to St Louis City and deliveries of water and MREs to Washington County. DSS continues to work on mass care requests for affected jurisdictions.

#### **Federal Actions**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is operating with an advance team out of the SEOC. Also, an ESF-8 team (Public Health and Medical Services) has been dispatched to the area to conduct a medical needs assessment. A debris management technician is also conducting an assessment for future debris operations.

#### **Other State Agency and Volunteer Agency Actions**

American Red Cross (ARC) and The Salvation Army (TSA) along with numerous other organizations are operating shelters in St Louis City, St Louis County, and assisting with mass feeding operations across the affected area. Volunteer agencies continue to work with local governments in the storm affected areas. Requests for cots, cooling tents, and other assistance continue to be passed on to these agencies. SEMA requested FEMA approve the mission assignment of 30 member Americorps team to assist local governments and SEMA in providing support for distribution, debris removal, volunteer support coordination and to assist special needs populations.

#### **Weather**

**St. Louis Weather (NOAA)** has issued Heat Advisory for St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County as well as the Metrocast area in Illinois. There is a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after

**7am. Partly cloudy, with a high near 96. Heat index values as high as 104. South wind between 6 and 11 mph. For the rest of the State, warmer temperatures, increased humidity and highs in the mid-nineties. The warming trend will continue throughout the weekend.**

**Point of Contact:**

SEMA Duty Officer after hours (Starting at 4:30 pm) number is 573-751-2748. During normal duty hours calls should be made to 573-526-9100.

This Situation Report and other storm-related information may be viewed at the following web address:

<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/Situation%20Reports.htm>